



The 12th Edition

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Airmen forge friendships at world's fifth largest air show

by Staff Sgt. Shane Sharp
FIDAE Public Affairs

SANTIAGO, Chile -- The 2006 Feria Internacional del Aire y del Espacio (International Air and Space Fair) ran Mar. 27-Apr. 2 in Santiago, Chile.

The fair is the largest air and trade show in the South American region with hundreds of defense/aviation vendors and more than 120 aircraft.

The U.S. Air Force participated with F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-15 Eagle demonstration teams, two B-1 Lancers, two KC-10 Extenders, a C-130 Hercules, and a Navy S-3 Viking.

Air Force members in Santiago had the opportunity to build relationships with other nations, specifically the Chilean Air Force who recently received new F-16s.

"We have an F-16 Friendship Program with the Chilean air force," said Lt. Gen. Mark Schmidt, Air Forces Southern commander. "FIDAE is a superb opportunity to highlight that relationship as well as strengthen ties with other nations."

More than 40 countries were represented

at FIDAE and approximately 120 U.S. Air Force personnel were excited to be at FIDAE.

"It's an absolute honor and a rare opportunity to be just a small part of such a melting pot of aviation prowess with so many nations working together at FIDAE 2006," said Capt. Dax Cornelius, pilot for Air Combat Command's West Coast F-16 Aerial Demonstration Team, Viper West. "We're excited to demonstrate the capabilities of the Fighting Falcon, as well as the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force that support and maintain these aircraft."

With so many nations involved, Airmen take on some additional duties beyond just generating sorties at the air and trade show.

"Our Airmen here are ambassadors for the Air Force and our country," said General Schmidt. "This is a great opportunity to show the world that the U.S. Air Force's greatest asset is its people."

The FIDAE international air and trade show hosted more than 300,000 people, and the U.S. Air

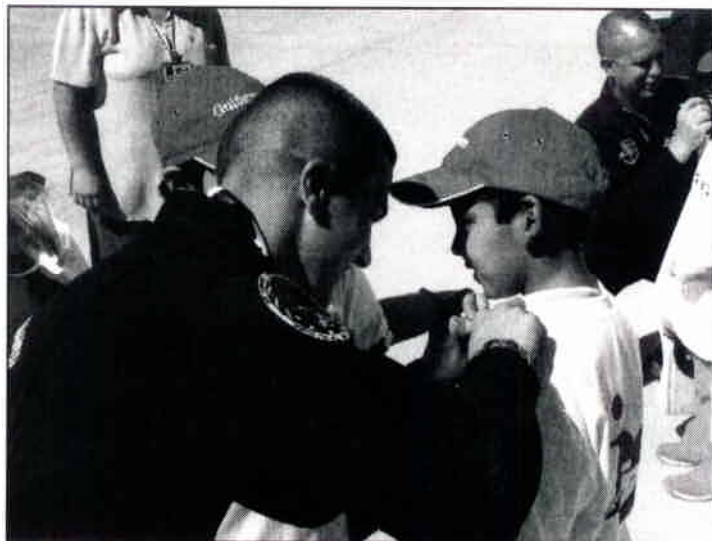


photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Sharp

Airmen from the Air Combat Command's West Coast F-16 Aerial Demonstration team, Viper West, signed autographs for more than 100 local Make-a-Wish and other children organizations throughout the week-long air and trade show. The U.S. Air Force was the only military unit that hosted the children during their visit to FIDAE. In addition to getting autographs from the Airmen, the children also toured a deployed KC-10 Extender from Travis AFB, Calif., and a C-130 Hercules from the Puerto Rico Air National Guard.

Force had a high operations tempo to deliver a show that will make memories that will last a lifetime for both Chilean and U.S. citizens.



Just to see you smile

Capt. Luis Martinez, Puerto Rico Air National Guard C-130 navigator, demonstrates magic tricks with children from Luis McKenna Children Hospital in Santiago, Chile. This visit by U.S. and Chilean Air Force members is just one of many children's activities done during the FIDAE air and trade show Mar. 27-Apr. 2. Aircrews hosted and entertained children from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Coaniquem children's burn unit, and the Teletón children's rehabilitation center.

Got a story idea?

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Symposium brings U.S., Chilean Air Force leaders together

Lt. Gen. Mark Schmidt, Air Forces Southern commander, and Gen. Osvaldo Sarabia, Chilean Air Force Chief of Staff, share casual conversation during an Air Power Symposium, at the Chilean Air War College in Santiago, Chile, Mar. 28. General Schmidt was one of 10 dignitaries invited from around the world to participate in the symposium's opening ceremonies. Talks between Generals Schmidt and Sarabia culminates bilateral cooperativeness between Chile and the United States. Training for both Chilean F-16 pilots and maintainers is one important topic for both generals due to the F-16 Friendship Program between the two air forces.



photo by 1st Lt. Christine Mundy

Airman

*Airman 1st Class Kristopher Doughty
474th Operations Group*

NCO

*Staff Sgt. Rafele Terrell
474th Operations Group*

Senior NCO

*Master Sgt. Ronald Richards, Jr.
612th Air Operations Group*

SALUTE!

Congratulations to Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Quarterly Award Winners (first quarter of 2006). These winners will represent HQ 12th AF at the "Team DM" competition. The base winners will be honored Apr. 21 at 2 p.m. in the base theater.

Company Grade Officer

*Capt. David Wilson
612th Air Support Squadron*

Field Grade Officer

*Maj. Jennifer Johnson
612th Air Support Squadron*

Junior Civilian

*Mrs. Angela Potts
612th Air Operations Group*

Int. Civilian

*Mr. Thomas Graue
612th Air Operations Group*

Senior Civilian

*Mrs. Carrie Graue
612th Air Intelligence Squadron*



The 12th Edition

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